

What is claimed is:

1. A method in a data processing system comprising a web server having a web page with a content, the method comprising the steps of:

5 determining to download the web page to a client;
obtaining a client capability responsive to the determination;
adapting the content of the web page to be compatible with the obtained client capability; and
10 downloading the web page with the adapted content to the client.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:
storing the obtained client capability at the web server.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of obtaining the client capability comprises the steps of:

15 requesting the client capability from the client;
generating the requested client capability at the client; and
retrieving the generated client capability from the client.

20 4. The method of claim 3, wherein the requested client capability is generated by the client.

5. The method of claim 3, wherein the requested client capability is generated by a client information retrieval application program on the client.

25 6. The methods of claim 1, wherein the client capability is obtained from a secondary storage on the web server.

30 7. The method of claim 1, wherein the client capability is obtained from the client.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the client capability is obtained from a second server.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the client comprises a browser program, and wherein the client capability comprises a setting of the browser program.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein the client capability comprises a video display capability of the client.

11. A computer-readable medium containing instructions that cause a data processing system comprising a web server having a web page with a content to perform a method comprising the steps of:

determining to download the web page to a client;

obtaining a client capability from the client responsive to the determination;

adapting the content of the web page to be compatible with the obtained client capability; and

downloading the web page with the adapted content to the client.

12. The computer-readable medium of claim 11, further comprising the step of:

storing the obtained client capability at the server.

13. The computer-readable medium of claim 11, wherein the step of obtaining the client capability comprises the steps of:

requesting the client capability from the client;

generating the requested client capability at the client; and

retrieving the generated client capability from the client.

14. The computer-readable medium of claim 13, wherein the requested client capability is generated by the client.

15. The computer-readable medium of claim 13, wherein the requested client capability is generated by a client information retrieval application program on the client.

16. The computer-readable medium of claim 11, wherein the client capability is obtained from a secondary storage on the web server.

17. The computer-readable medium of claim 11, wherein the client capability is obtained from the client.

18. The computer-readable medium of claim 11, wherein the client capability is obtained from a second server.

19. The computer-readable medium of claim 11, wherein the client comprises a browser program, and wherein the client capability comprises a setting of the browser program.

20. The computer-readable medium of claim 11, wherein the client capability comprises a video display capability of the client.

21. A data processing system comprising:
a secondary storage device having a stored web page with a content;
a memory comprising a computer program that determines to download the web page to a client; obtains a client capability responsive to the determination; adapts the content of the web page to be compatible with the obtained client capability; and
downloads the web page with the adapted content to the client; and
a processing unit that runs the computer program.

22. The method of claim 15 wherein the client comprises a browser program, and wherein the client capability comprises a setting of the browser program.

23. The method of claim 15, wherein the client capability comprises a video display capability of the client.

24. A data processing system for providing a web page with a content to a client, the data processing system comprising:

means for determining to download the web page to the client;

means for obtaining a client capability responsive to the determination;

means for adapting the content of the web page to be compatible with the obtained client capability; and

means for downloading the web page with the adapted content to the client.

25. A computer-readable memory device encoded with a data structure and a program that accesses the data structure, the program is run by a processor in a system comprising a web server having a web page with a content, the data structure having a plurality of entries, each entry comprising:

a client capability, wherein the program updates the client capability responsive to a client requesting to download the web page from the server, the content of the web page being adapted to be compatible with the client capability.